

BLM WH&B NEWS



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Wild Horse & Burro Adoption Returns to San Antonio

Still dreaming of adopting your own Wild Horse or Burro? Turn that dream into a reality!

The Bureau of Land Management (BLM) returns to the San Antonio Rose Palace on Feb 17-19. The three-day event will feature approximately 100 spectacular animals available for adoption on Feb 18 and 19; a special performance by the Blazin' Saddles Drill Team on Feb 17; and horse gentling demonstrations by Chris Erhlon, of Dallas, TX, on Feb 17 and 18.

Preview of all animals available for adoption begins Thursday, Feb 17 from 4 – 6 p.m. Doors open at 8 a.m. the remainder of the weekend. The competitive bid adoption begins on Friday, Feb 18, at 10 a.m. Following the initial competitive bid, walk-up adoptions will be held throughout the weekend until noon on Saturday, Feb 19. The minimum adoption fee is \$125, per animal to qualified adopters.

The majority of the weanlings available for adoption were born in captivity on BLM contracted pastures in Oklahoma and Kansas, and the studs and mares were gathered from Nevada herds. Approximately 20 burros will be available for adoption.

The Blazin' Saddles drill team will perform at 6 p.m. on Thursday, Feb 17. One member of the drill team rides Arashi, a horse adopted by Teresa Moore from a BLM adoption in 1997. Come catch a peek at Arashi and Teresa on Thursday!!!

“The animals are noted for their endurance, sure-footedness, and strong sense of loyalty to their caretaker,” says Bob Mitchell, Wild Horse and Burro Manager.

To qualify to adopt at the event, bidders must be at least 18 years of age, with no record of animal abuse. In addition, adopters must have specific facilities and can adopt no more than four animals. All animals **must be loaded** in a covered trailer with solid walls and floors – no drop ramp trailers.

This event presents an opportunity for the general public to participate in the adoption process and share a part of their American heritage. All of the wild horses and burros are gathered from many different herd management areas throughout California, Oregon, Nevada, New Mexico, Wyoming, Colorado, Utah, and Arizona. The BLM has placed more than 203,000 horses in approved homes across the country.

For more information on the San Antonio adoption, call **866-4-Mustangs**, or visit www.wildhorseandburro.gov.

Directions to San Antonio Rose Palace: 25665 Boerne Stage Road. From IH-10 West, take exit #551 if coming from San Antonio or exit #550 if going into San Antonio. Continue west for 3.1 miles on Boerne Stage Rd.

Media Activities:

- Excellent Photo Opportunities starting **Thursday** morning, 8 a.m. See wild horses as they arrive to the site.
- Excellent Photo Opportunity on Thursday evening, 6 p.m. See Blazin' Saddles Drill Team perform. Drill team member Teresa Moore and her adopted wild horse Arashi. Arashi was adopted at a 1997 BLM adoption in San Antonio.
- Chris Erhlon, of Dallas, TX, will provide gentling horse demonstrations during Thursday's preview session and before and after Friday's competitive bid session.
- Meet BLM mascots – Chester and Radar
- Follow an adopter through the process from registration to loading their adopted animal into a trailer for the ride home Friday through Sun
- Photograph wild horses and burros available for adoption, talk with past adopters about their experience all weekend
- Interview BLM Wild Horse and Burro Specialists about the history of the program, and find out what qualifies as a good home

The Bureau of Land Management is responsible for managing the nation's public lands. With the passage of the Wild Free-Roaming Horses and Burros Act of 1971, the Bureau gained the responsibility to care for wild horses and burros on these lands in harmony with other natural resources. When an over-population of wild horses and burros exists on these public lands, some animals are removed and offered to the general public for adoption.

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